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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, US, CA
SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO CANADA

1. I WAS CONCERNED TO LEARN FROM DEPUTY CTMMANDANT LEONHART OF POSSIBILITY THAT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO CANADA, SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 1, MAY HAVE TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS. WHILE I FULLY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO CURTAIL GOVERNMENT SPENDING, I CONCUR WITH EUR THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE SUCH A DECISION IS MADE:

A. SEVERAL TOP-LEVEL CANADIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MACEACHEN, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE RICHARDSON, AND CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF DEXTRAZE, HAVE AGREED TO ADDRESS THE NWC. THESE AND OTHER ARRANGED SPEAKERS WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED SHOULD NWC VISIT TO CANADA BE CANCELLED. IN PAST YEARS CANADIANS HAVE FOUND THE NWC AN INTERESTED, WELL-BRIEFED AUDIENCE, AND HAVE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY THE VISIT OFFERS TO EXPRESS CANADIAN VIEWPOINT.

B.THE CANADIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE VISITS WASHINGTON EACH YEAR, AND IS INVARIABLY PLEASED AND IMPRESSED WITH LEVEL OF SPEAKERS AVAILABLE. CANADIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO RECIPROCATE. (INVIATIONS TO LUNCHEON
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GIVEN BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, LT. GEN. CARR,

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HAVE ALREADY GONE OUT.)

C. ANY CANCELLATION OF VISIT AND WORD OF SAME COULD QUITE POSSIBLY CREATE IMPRESSION HERE WHICH CANADIAN NATIONALISTS PRONE TO ADVERTISE, VIZ THAT USG OVERLOOKS IMPORTANCE OF CANADA TO ALLIANCE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

D. IF FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS CANNOT BE AVOIDED, I SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BRING LESS THAN ENTIRE NWC MEMBERSHIP, POSSIBLY INVOLVING ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT, OR TO BRING THAT PORTION OF THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL STUDIES IN CANADIAN AFFAIRS. US-CANADIAN RELATIONS ARE OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE TO WARRANT EXPOSITION TO ALL NWC MEMBERS, AND IT WOULD BE SERIOUS OMISSION IF NONE OF THEM HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CANADIAN MATTERS FROM THE OTTAWA VIEWPOINT.

E. ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAMS ARRANGED FOR TORONTO AND QUEBEC CITY ARE INTERESTING AND VALUABLE, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO CANCELLING ONE OR BOTH OF THESE VISITS. THIS AGAIN WOULD BE REGRETTABLE, BUT SOME LIMITED EXPOSURE TO CANADA FOR THE NWC WOULD BE MUCH PREFERABLE TO NONE AT ALL.

2. WHATEVER THE FINAL DECISION, I SUGGEST IT BE MADE PROMPTLY IF ONLY OUT OF COURTESY TO CANADIAN HOSTS WHO HAVE BEEN AT ELABORATE PAINS TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL VISIT.
PORTER

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